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PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Tetsuya OTSUKI

Group Art Unit: 2818

Application No.: 10/624,680

Examiner: L. Tran

Filed: July 23, 2003

Docket No.: 116568

For: INTERCONNECT SUBSTRATE, SEMICONDUCTOR DEVICE, METHODS OF
MANUFACTURING THE SAME, CIRCUIT BOARD, AND ELECTRONIC
EQUIPMENT

RESPONSE TO ELECTION OF SPECIES REQUIREMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In reply to the January 10, 2005 Election of Species Requirement, Applicant provisionally elects Species III, Figures 21A to 21C, with traverse. At present, at least claims 96, 97, 105 and 112 read on the elected species. With respect to the species as defined by the Patent Office, no claim is generic.

It is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of all species is sufficiently related that a thorough search for the subject matter of any one species would encompass a search for the subject matter of the remaining species. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the search and examination of the entire application could be made without serious burden. See MPEP §803 in which it is stated that "if the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions" (emphasis added). It is respectfully submitted that this policy should apply in the present application in order to avoid

unnecessary delay and expense to Applicant and duplicative examination by the Patent Office.

Further, it is submitted that upon allowance of the elected species, the additional species should then also be examined. Thus, all claims should ultimately be examined and similarly allowed.

Thus, withdrawal of the Election of Species Requirement is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Leana Levin

James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

Leana Levin
Registration No. 51,939

JAO:LL/rav

Date: February 10, 2005

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

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